⚠ NEW WORLD SCREWWORM – HYPOTHETICAL SPREAD PROJECTION

CONFIRMED: 11 TX + 1 NM cases as of ~Jun 16, 2026 · Hypothetical scenarios only · Not a forecast

SCENARIO A – CONTAINED

Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) succeeds. 100M+ sterile flies/week deployed. Cases plateau by late 2026. Eradication by 2028.

Peak cases: ~500–2,000

Beef supply impact: Moderate (5–15% price rise, no collapse)

North America runs out of beef: NEVER (contained)

SCENARIO B – SLOW SPREAD

SIT partially effective. Cases double every 3–4 months. Reaches critical herd mass by 2028. Major southwest cattle losses.

Peak cases: ~10,000–90,000

Beef supply impact: Severe (1972-style outbreak, $3B+ losses)

Meaningful shortage: 2029-2031

SCENARIO C – UNCONTROLLED

SIT fails to scale. Northward spread through TX, OK, KS. Wildlife reservoir established. Conventional beef ranching collapse in SW.

Peak cases: 90,000+ (1972 levels reached in months not years)

Beef supply impact: Catastrophic regional collapse

Critical shortage: 2027-2028

HYPOTHETICAL PROJECTION – Based on: June 2026 confirmed case count (11 TX, 1 NM), 1972 outbreak baseline (~90,000 cases), USDA SIT capacity (~100M sterile flies/week from Panama facility), historic northward spread rates from Central America. Screwworm does not infest meat – supply impact is via livestock death/treatment cost, not contamination. Beef "shortage" modeled as >40% herd loss in primary cattle states.